

ATTACHMENT TO PTOL-413:

Discussed the 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, rejection of claims 1, 5-11, 13, 18, and 27 set forth in the final rejection mailed on Mar. 23, 2009, paragraph 4. Discussed various proposed amendments to claim 1 to overcome the rejection. From that discussion, the following amendment to claim 1 was proposed:

Lines 16-26 of claim 1 in the amendment filed on Dec. 11, 2008, are amended to read:

-- passing the collected non-transferred toner through a toner intermediate chamber, wherein the toner intermediate chamber is provided with a cylindrical or conical structure oriented in a vertical direction which separates paper dust or toner granules toward the bottom of said toner intermediate chamber by utilizing spiraling flow formed from [[of]] a gas [[from a gas stream]] introduced into the intermediate chamber from the development device;

mixing the collected non-transferred toner with the gas in the spiraling flow to separate paper dust or toner granules from the collected non-transferred toner; and

transporting the mixture of the separated collected non-transferred toner and gas from the toner intermediate chamber [[by use of the gas stream]] to the development device via a

suction produced by an air-pump motor so as to reuse the separated collected non-transferred toner,

wherein the gas returned to the development device in the transporting of the mixture of the separated collected non-transferred toner and gas is re-introduced into the intermediate chamber to form the spiraling flow.

Mr. Lucas stated that he needed to further consider the proposed amendment and to discuss the proposed amendment with applicants.